Gafat language

The **Gafat language** is an extinct South Ethiopic language once spoken along the Blue Nile in Ethiopia, and later speakers pushed south of Gojjam in what is now East Welega Zone.[2][3] Gafat was related to the Harari language and Gurage languages.[4] The records of this language are extremely sparse. There is a translation of the Song of Songs written in the 17th or 18th Century held at the Bodleian Library.

Charles Beke collected a word list in the early 1840s with difficulty from the few who knew the language, having found that "the rising generation seem to be altogether ignorant of it; and those grown-up persons who profess to speak it are anything but familiar with it."[5] The most recent accounts of this language are the reports of Wolf Leslau, who visited the region in 1947 and after considerable work was able to find a total of four people who could still speak the language. Edward Ullendorff, in his brief exposition on Gafat, concludes that as of the time of his writing, "one may ... expect that it has now virtually breathed its last."[6]

Gafat	
Native to	Ethiopia
Extinct	(date missing)
Language family	Afro-Asiatic - Semitic - South Semitic - Ethiopian Semitic - South - n-group **Gafat**
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	`gft`
Glottolog	`gafa1240` (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/gafa1240)[1]

Notes

1. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Gafat" (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/gafa1240). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
2. Lipiński, Edward (2001). *Semitic Languages: Outline of a Comparative Grammar* (https://books.google.com/books?id=IiXVqyEkPKcC&pg=PA89). Peeters Publishers. p. 89. ISBN 978-90-429-0815-4.
3. Fage, J. D.; Oliver, Roland (1975). *The Cambridge History of Africa* (https://books.google.com/books?id=GWjxR61xAe0C&pg=PA128). Cambridge University Press. p. 128. ISBN 978-0-521-20981-6.
4. Pankhurst, Richard (1997). *The Ethiopian Borderlands: Essays in Regional History from Ancient Times to the End of the 18th Century* (https://books.google.com/books?id=zpYBD3bzW1wC&pg=PA89). The Red Sea Press. p. 89. ISBN 978-0-932415-19-6.
5. Charles T. Beke, "Abyssinia: Being a Continuation of Routes in That Country", *Journal of the Royal Geographical Society of London* (https://www.jstor.org/stable/1798047), 14 (1844), p. 41
6. Ullendorff, Edward. *The Ethiopians: An Introduction to Country and People, Second Edition* (London: Oxford University Press, 1965), p. 131.

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Amharic, Falashan, Gafat, Agow and Tcheretch Agow Languages"; vol. 7, plate III: a page from the Gafat text of the Song of Songs].

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- Leslau, Wolf. (1945). *Gafat Documents: Records of a South-Ethiopic Language*. American Oriental Series, no. 28. New Haven.
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- Ludolf, Hiob, *Historia Aethiopica*. Francofurti ad Moenum. [there are 3 sentences in Gafat with Latin translation in chapter 10, §60].
- Franz Praetorius. (1879). *Die amharische Sprache*. Halle. pp. 13–14.

External links

Gafat Documents: Records of a South Ethiopic Language (1945) by Leslau (https://archive.org/details/rosettaproject_gft_vertxt-1)